

Local Law Enforcement to Announce Joint Operation to Thwart “Wrong Way Drivers” at the Border

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San Diego, Calif. – Citing public safety and homeland security concerns; local law enforcement officials announced a cooperative effort to deter smugglers from entering the U.S. by driving into oncoming traffic through the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Since March, 16 wrong way drivers have been detected illegally entering the U.S. through the port using the southbound lanes of Interstate 5. The vehicles typically enter in the early morning at high speeds with their headlights off, leading to several traffic accidents. Several vehicles have been specially prepared with the addition of reinforced bumpers and silicon-filled tires.

The Border Patrol along with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the U.S. Customs Service, the California Highway Patrol, CalTrans, the San Diego Police Department, the Chula Vista Police Department, and the Mexican Consulate are joining forces to address the problem.

Citing the agencies’ commitment to public safety and homeland security, Border Patrol Chief Patrol Agent William T. Veal discussed the alarming trend with media representatives. Several visible changes, including improved lane dividers, high-intensity lighting, surveillance video cameras, and a visible marked unit in the southbound lanes at the border, will be implemented. Details on other methods to be employed were not released for security reasons.

Other agencies have pledged additional resources, including patrolling units, air support, prosecution resources, and physical deterrents. The Mexican Consulate’s office will be coordinating further cooperation from south of the border.